



Sen. Joe Zarelli
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Committee Assignments

- Ways & Means, Ranking Republican
- International Trade & Economic Development
- Rules

Town Halls

Saturday, March 19th:

10:00 – 11:30 am
Woodland Council
Chambers
230 Davidson Ave.
Woodland

1:00 – 2:30 pm
Hockinson High School
Library
16819 NE 159th Street
Brush Prairie

Help me save a stamp

If you would like to receive this update via e-mail, please let me know! I take the spending of tax dollars very seriously. While I believe it is important for you to have this information, I want to be sure I'm saving money when and where I can.

Sen. Joe Zarelli's UPDATE FROM OLYMPIA 2/25/05

Dear Friends,

In addition to this weekly update, many of you also receive my weekly "budget tidbits." As ranking Republican on the Senate Ways and Means Committee, I feel obligated to bring up questions that are not being discussed under current leadership in Olympia. In doing so, I'm hoping to help jumpstart the budget process as both the Governor and the Senate Majority have not yet provided any direction. While sometimes falling on deaf ears, I've said all I along that I truly believe we can solve our budget woes without raising taxes! Recent polls show that a majority of Washington voters agree.

A poll of 500 voters across Washington in January of this year, asked if people agreed or disagreed with this statement: "State government should live within its 7 percent revenue growth and should not raise taxes for any purpose." In every area polled —except Seattle— the majority agreed: 64 percent in non-Seattle King County; 57 percent in Kitsap/Pierce/Snohomish counties; 54 percent in other parts of Western Washington; and 66 percent in Eastern Washington.

Speaking of taxes, I also wanted to let you know of a Democrat proposal – **Senate Joint Resolution 8211** – to introduce a state income tax. The Democrat measure is an amendment to the Washington State Constitution and requires a vote of the people – even though Washington voters have rejected income tax proposals eight times since 1934! The eight "no" votes by the people against an income tax in the past have been: 56.6 percent; 77.8 percent; 66.9 percent; 66.3 percent; 68.4 percent; 77 percent; 66.8 percent and 66.2 percent, respectively. There is nothing ambiguous about this message. The people of Washington don't want an income tax.

Lastly, I wanted to let you know that students who perform at the highest levels in math and science on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) may become eligible for scholarships at the DigiPen Institute of Technology in Redmond. The first scholarships are to be awarded to students entering the institute in fall 2005. The scholarships will cover 50 percent of total tuition costs – \$13,800 for a two-year program and \$26,000 for a four-year program. The institute offers two-, four- and six-year degree programs in game development, computer engineering, 3D computer animation and related areas.

As always, feel free to contact me at any time. It is a pleasure serving you in Olympia.

Sincerely,

Sen. Joe Zarelli. 18th Legislative District

District Day – You are invited!

The 18th Legislative District Day will be held on Wednesday, March 23. The day will include a tour of the newly-refurbished Legislative Building, lunch (**bring your own brown-bag lunch**) with myself, Rep. Orcutt and Rep. Curtis, a tour of the Governor's Mansion and a tour of the Temple of Justice. We will start the day at 10:00 a.m. in the State Reception Room, located in the Legislative Building. Please contact my office if you plan on attending!